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“ST26733”, International Conference "Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture"

Preface for the fourth edition of the International Conference "Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture", organized by the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, between 4 and 6 June 2015

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The International Conference “Agriculture for life, Life for Agriculture”, organized by the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, reached its 4th edition in 2015. The conference was held in Bucharest between 4-6 June and was structured into seven sections managed by the specialist faculty within the University: (1) Agronomy, (2) Horticulture, (3) Animal Science, (4) Veterinary Medicine, (5) Land Reclamation Earth Observation & Surveying, Environmental Engineering, (6) Biotechnology and (7) Management and Economics in Rural Areas. (<http://agricultureforlife.usamv.ro/index.php/en/>)

This year too, the conference brought together a large number of researchers, doctoral students and professionals, who shared the results of their scientific research, innovative ideas and practical experience. The large participation of researchers from 35 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America confirmed the importance of the conference organized by one of the oldest education institutions in Romania.

Among the keynote speakers there were several distinguished scholars from prestigious institutions: Prof. Dr. Jan DETTMANN (*European Space Agency*), Prof. Dr. Diego BEGALLI (*University of Verona*), Prof. Huub LELIEVELD (*Global Harmonization Initiative*), Dr. Krassimira ANGUELOVA (*Cabi*), Dr. Lukas BERTSCHINGE (*Agroscope*), Dr. Eric James MURPHY (*University of North Dakota*), Prof. Dr. Anja Kipar (*University of Liverpool*). We highly appreciated their participation and generosity in sharing their wisdom and experience.

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More than 650 papers were presented during the conference, both in the plenary session and the subsequent seven parallel sessions. The papers are now available in the journals edited by each faculty (<http://agricultureforlife.usamv.ro/index.php/en/publications>), and about 100 have been selected for publication in this special issue after a rigorous review process.

This volume contains selected papers covering numerous topics from the fields of *agronomy*: soil and crop science; *horticulture*: fruit growing, viticulture, oenology, vegetable growing, floriculture, ornamental plants, design and landscape architecture; *animal science*: genetic and breeding, nutrition, reproduction, physiology, anatomy, animal breeding technologies, agro food product processing technologies, wild life management, fishery and aquaculture; *veterinary medicine*: fundamental sciences, clinical sciences, public health and animal production, veterinary education; *land reclamation, Earth observation and surveying*: environmental science and engineering, sustainable development of rural areas, disaster management, water resources management, pollution control, land planning, topography and cadastre, Earth observation and geographic information systems, *biotechnology*: agricultural biotechnology, biotechnology in veterinary medicine, food biotechnology, industrial and environmental biotechnology, food safety; *management and economics in rural areas*: production economics, farm management and agro-marketing, agricultural policies, agribusiness and agricultural extension, agro-tourism, rural development, environmental economics and educational management in agronomic education.

The editors would like to thank all those who brought their contribution to the organization of another successful edition of the International Conference “Agriculture for life, Life for Agriculture”, as well as the publication of the proceedings. We are particularly grateful to the section managers who have dedicated their time and energy to contact the reviewers, and cast a critical eye over the selection of top quality contributions to the present proceedings.

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